



John Fulton beside one of his paintings, for which he uses blood of bull, a technique of his own that has brought him real success.

## AN INTERVIEW

## WITH JOHN FULTON

John Fulton is an American painter and bullfighter who lives in Seville, the heart of the fiesta. INDICE requested from him to answer some questions and make a self-portrait of his personality. Fulton kindly and promptly answered our questions, ending with a laconic "yes."

● *When and where were you born?*  
I was born in Philadelphia on May 25, 1932.

● *How did you become interested in bullfighting?*

In Philadelphia at the age of 13 I first became interested in bullfighting when I saw the film version of Blasco Ibáñez' novel *BLOOD AND SAND*. Later I read Hemingway's *DEATH IN THE AFTERNOON*, which further stimulated my interest. In Philadelphia a Spanish barber, Antonio Fernández, showed me the basic cape passes, using a barber's cloth.

● *How many bullfights have you taken part in?*

Since I killed my first bull in Mexico in 1953, I have appeared in over one hundred fights.

● *Did you use your name or a nickname?*

I have always used my own name, John Fulton. When I came to Spain, my first manager had me use the name «El Yankee» for several fights. I used that name for only a few fights and have since that time only used «John Fulton.»

● *When did you settle in Spain? Why did you chose Seville as your place of residence?*

I first came to Spain in March of 1956, and decided to settle in Seville because it is the artistic and spiritual center of tauromaquia. It is surrounded by the most renowned bull ranches and has one of the oldest, most beautiful and most esteemed bullrings in the world. Seville, as a city, is beautiful and most esteemed bullrings in the world. Seville, as a city, is beautiful in a romantically Spanish way.

● *How would you defend the fiesta against those who consider it a brutal and cruel spectacle?*

It has been said of the bullfight that it is indefensible but irresistible. Rather than defend the fiesta of the bulls, I find it much more important to try and make it better understood.

● *You are not the first American bullfighter. We Spaniards remember Sydney Franklin. Do you think he was a good bullfighter? Do you know any other American bullfighters?*

I have never seen Sidney Franklin fight. He was most active in Spanish rings in 1929 and 1930. Later he became a full *matador de toros*, taking his *alternativa* in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, in 1931, and made only one appearance in Spain in this category in Madrid in 1945. The first Northamerican to become a full *matador de toros* was a Texan named Harper B. Lee who took his *alternativa* in Monterrey, Mexico in 1910. Lee never fought in Spain. The ceremony took place in the *Real Maestranza* of Seville, July 18, 1963.